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ENERGYScoreCARDS MINNESOTA LAUNCHES MULTIFAMILY ENERGY BENCHMARKING PILOT FUNDED BY MINNESOTA HOUSING AND XCEL ENERGY

(Saint Paul, Minnesota) Minnesota Housing announced a new pilot program today that will pave the way for future energy savings in multifamily rental housing developments. EnergyScoreCards Minnesota is a two-year effort to implement energy benchmarking and tracking at hundreds of multifamily buildings in Minnesota. The project aims to demonstrate that engaging owners, property managers and tenants in managing energy use can measurably reduce utility spending, energy and water consumption and carbon emissions. Project partners include Minnesota Housing, Minnesota Green Communities, University of Minnesota Center for Sustainable Building Research (CSBR), the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), and EnergyScoreCards™ - an innovative online energy management tool for multifamily buildings. The pilot is jointly funded by Xcel Energy and Minnesota Housing.

"We're pleased to reach out to housing partners across Minnesota to participate in this important research project," said Mary Tingerthal, Commissioner of Minnesota Housing. "EnergyScoreCards Minnesota will help demonstrate the critical cost savings that can be achieved by monitoring consumption of utilities."

Key goals of the pilot include:

- Provide owners and managers with intuitive feedback on energy performance to help implement energy and water best practices.
- Engage owners, maintenance staff and tenants in Minnesota.
- Support owners in cost-effective decisions regarding property improvements.
- Pave the way for future multifamily benchmarking by demonstrating energy savings.
- Partner with Minnesota utilities to establish simple methods for gathering energy consumption and spending data on an ongoing basis.

"We're excited to help property owners make informed investments in energy and water efficiency through energy tracking. Overall, the pilot will improve our understanding of how multifamily buildings use energy - which will also help improve the effectiveness of future green building programs," said Billy Weber, Senior Research Fellow for University of Minnesota Center for Sustainable Building Research.

EnergyScoreCards Minnesota is funded by an Emerging Technologies Grant from Xcel Energy. Funding from Minnesota Housing will focus on the Corridor of Opportunity in the Central Corridor transit line.

Property owners and managers interested in signing up or learning more can go to www.energyscorecardsmn.com.

EnergyScoreCards Minnesota Partners:

EnergyScoreCards, Inc. provides a web-based system to track and analyze energy consumption and savings in multifamily buildings. EnergyScoreCards is a subsidiary of Bright Power, Inc., an energy consulting firm based in NY. www.energyscorecards.com

Minnesota Green Communities is a collaboration of the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, the Family Housing Fund, and Enterprise designed to foster the creation of affordable, healthier, and more energy efficient housing throughout Minnesota.

www.mngreencommunities.org

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The Center for Sustainable Building Research's mission is to lead and support the transformation of the regional built environment to provide for the ecological, economic, and social needs of the present without compromising those of the future. www.csbr.umn.edu

Minnesota Housing finances and advances affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income Minnesotans to enhance quality of life and foster strong communities. www.mnhousing.gov

The Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) is a nonprofit organization that promotes energy efficiency to strengthen the economy while improving the environment. www.mncee.org



EnergyScoreCards Minnesota is an initiative of EnergyScoreCards, Minnesota Green Communities, University of Minnesota Center for Sustainable Building Research, Minnesota Housing, and Center for Energy and Environment. This two-year effort aims to reduce utility costs, energy and water use, and carbon emissions in multifamily housing through energy benchmarking.

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